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LLP.

July 23, 2002

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Docket Management Facility (USCG 1998-3884) - 9
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room PL-401
Washington, DC 20590-0001
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02 JUL 23 PM 3:56
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

RE: Extension of Deadline for Comments on Deepwater Ports Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (USCG 1998-3884)

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to request that the Department of Transportation and the United States Coast Guard extend the deadline for filing comments on the Coast Guard's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("NPRM") for deepwater ports, 33 CFR Parts 148, 149 and 150, at docket number USCG 1998-3884. We are in the process of preparing comments on the NPRM for deepwater ports and believe that it would be in the public interest for Coast Guard to extend the comment deadline.

In the past couple of weeks several regulatory packages have been published that could potentially impact deepwater ports and should be considered by Coast Guard. We are in the process of reviewing these regulatory packages and hope to reference them in our comments on Coast Guard's deepwater port NPRM. In addition, the NPRM for deepwater ports is quite extensive. An extension of the comment deadline would help to ensure that regulatory comments received are of high quality and most useful to the Coast Guard.

We appreciate your prompt review of our request for extension of the comment period for the deepwater port NPRM. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


James T. Banks

cc: Commander Mark Prescott